

REMOTE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Minutes of meeting held on 17th May, 2021

Present: Councillor B.T. Gray (Chairman), P. Drake, Dr. I.J. Johnson, K.F. McCaffer, R. Nugent-Finn, N. Thomas and, E. Williams; Mrs J. Ballantine (Principal HR Business Partner), L. Carver (Director of Social Services), Mrs. M. Coles (LAC Education Co-ordinator and Lead Professional EAL), Ms. A. Condy (Operational Manager CYPS), Mr. M. Dacey (Lead Officer for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing), Mrs. T. Dickinson (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), Mrs. R. Evans (Head of Children and Young People Services), M. Hudson (Head of Standards and Provision), Mr. M. Ingram (Head of Housing and Building Services), Miss CL (Care Leavers Forum Representative), C. O'Dare (Team Manager) and Mr. M. Swindell (Cabinet & Committee Services Officer).

Invited attendees: J. Grady (Domestic and Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator), D. Gibbs (Principal Community Safety Officer).

(1)	Apologies for Absence –
	Apologies for absence were noted from Ms. K. Conway (Operational Manager CYPS).
(2)	Minutes and Matters Arising –
	The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 nd March, 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and would go on in Part I form to a future Cabinet meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
(3)	DA/DV Issue –
	<p>The Chairman noted that this item on the agenda had come from Member's desire to look at the matter as part of the CPP Work Programme.</p> <p>J. Grady (Domestic and Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator) (JG) provided Panel members with an overview of domestic and sexual violence in the Vale of Glamorgan over the last year with a PowerPoint presentation on-screen, with the following additional points noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work was done in partnership with Cardiff after developing the Regional VAWDASV Strategy in 2018.• DAARC – managed all cases that come in via the Police that are standard and medium risk. Worked in Partnership with all agencies. Contacted victims and assessed need, with consent. Briefings were held with multiple agencies to keep all involved informed and minimises points of contact.• MARAC – managed all the high risk PPNs. Twice weekly discussions are held in addition to the MARAC meeting that is held once a fortnight. Action plans were created.

- High risk cases could be offered CCTV, burglar alarms, etc.; standard and medium cases could be offered lighting, door and window locks, etc.
- Attempts were made to try and find out more about any potentially unknown cases, e.g. homeless, living with relatives, etc. DAARC linked in with Housing Associations in confidence.
- DA/DV was often reported more in some wards than others but did not mean there were further cases that were not being reported. Figures do help certain areas to be targeted for support as part of awareness campaigns.
- Work was being done with the Police and Crime Commissioner in terms of information mapping over the next year.
- Atal Y Fro only have the capacity to support children in refuge and cannot support young people aged 16-24, who are supported by other projects.
- All agencies would support / work with children who need it, but there was nothing bespoke for children in the Vale of Glamorgan experiencing domestic or sexual violence.
- Figures were also kept for repeat referrals where there was a repeat of incidence within 3 months or where there were 3 incidents within a year, which numbered 470 in the last year for DAARC and 270 for MARAC. This showed there was more work that needed to be done.

The Chairman thanked JG for the informative presentation and said it was important to realise that the presentation discussed the reported levels and not the actual levels of domestic violence and there may be more experiencing it that are not currently reported. He asked about other avenues of reporting, e.g. schools. JG added that schools are aware of every incident that is reported to the Police so teachers can also provide support to children and their families and ensure referral to DAARC / MARAC. Schools also can report concerns to Children Services.

JG said there seemed to be support around the victims and perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence nationally, but nothing bespoke in the Vale of Glamorgan for children who are witness to it.

Councillor R. Nugent-Finn (RNF) said that the figures in Cadoc were high but noted that it was also the second largest ward in the Vale of Glamorgan. She referred to a Pobl presentation as part of being a one-stop-shop, which she had asked to be circulated to all elected Members and was encouraged to see that Atal Y Fro and the Vale Council were part of that system.

RNF asked if Officers had managed to continue with ongoing training during difficult circumstances due to the pandemic. JG said that the National Training Framework developed by Welsh Government was being delivered with Level 1 available online and the Level 2 'Ask and Act' (for all staff who are in a position to spot signs of abuse, etc.) ongoing with over 450 Vale of Glamorgan staff trained to date. In September, the Level 3 training for Champions (those working with victims) would take place. Substance misuse training had been on hold as a result of the pandemic.

RNF asked if it was also still appropriate to refer concerns via the appropriate helplines. JG said it was, but that the support was conversational rather than hands on and the counselling element would then be missing.

Ms. A. Condy (Operational Manager CYPS) (AC) said a number of services mentioned in the presentation were within her area and all staff within those areas have updated training, would be having further training through the Act and had further training on how to respond to incidents of domestic violence and support families. There was no specialist service in place for children and young people, but there was support available at the point of need (e.g. Flying Start).

Councillor N. Thomas (NT) asked if certain schools were better are noticing symptoms of domestic abuse reflected in children's behaviour which could lead to increased levels of levels of reporting, and conversely less sensitivity within other schools where the numbers of reports were therefore lower. He further asked about the effect of Covid and whether children and young people not being school had prompted an increase in numbers affected.

JG said that all schools were very aware of the signs to look for in children who may be experiencing domestic violence, were keen to work with specialist services and some hold specific lessons on the subject to raise awareness in terms of healthy relationships. Primary School teachers spend more time with the same children than in secondary schools so are more observant of their cohort as they are with them for the year. There had been no increase in the numbers of cases as a result of Covid, but that did not mean that abuse was not taking place or that children had had any opportunity to report it whilst not in school.

Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson (IJ) said three of the Panel members represented areas in the Vale of Glamorgan where case numbers were quite high and asked if there anything more that Members should be doing to help and support those residents. He asked if there was work that could or should be happening to draw some of the threads together as part of a more cohesive strategy of support. He further suggested engagement with Children Looked After (CLA) to see how we could prevent them needing support.

JG said there were already awareness campaigns running in the local Members' areas and information available in public places (Doctor's surgeries, coffee shops, etc.). Training could be made available for Members if they would welcome it.

Mr. M. Ingram (Head of Housing and Building Services) (MI) said DAARC was only a pilot until this year, with evidence submitted to Cabinet as a cost pressure which was agreed, and the DAARC co-ordinator post was now core funded.

Evidence had not been gathered for children in such detail previously and should lead to strategic thinking to deal with concerns. There is the Regional VAWDASV Strategy with Cardiff, but it was difficult to compare the Vale of

	<p>Glamorgan to Cardiff and there wasn't enough resource to deal with all the priorities. A great deal of work was undertaken with sector partners, e.g. Llamau, but the law also required the Council to provide priority services in some cases. JG had been referring to the whole cohort and there was a need to work with AC to look to provide some bespoke services for CLA / children in need of care and support.</p> <p>D. Gibbs (Principal Community Safety Officer) (DG) said that funding from Welsh Government was only £77k a year for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, which has to fund the MARAC post, JG's post and towards the IDVA provision. Support had also been provided to Community Safety, Supporting People and the Police and Crime Commissioner's team who were looking at the joint-commissioning of services and were reviewing IDVA provision in the Vale of Glamorgan as Safe Lives data suggested the Vale of Glamorgan Council should have 2.5 IDVA posts and there was currently only one. The contribution from the Police and Crime Commissioner to Atal Y Fro was successfully renegotiated from £30k to £65k on an annual basis for the duration of the 5-year contract. There may be further investment into the Vale of Glamorgan as a result of bids by the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Home Office.</p> <p>AC said the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) which was shared regionally with Cardiff specialised in domestic abuse, mental health and substance abuse which also supported children in partnership across agencies.</p> <p>Mr. M. Dacey (Lead Officer for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing) (MD) said that schools do identify these types of issues within the community and following the pandemic had noticed an increase in the numbers of young people presenting with anxiety or mental health concerns as a result of disengagement, domestic violence, etc. The full picture would only begin to come to light in time, but incidents were expected to rise, and schools were mindful of this.</p> <p>Councillor E. Williams (EW) said the situation was difficult there were budget issues. He appreciated the value of the improved partnership working but felt there was still more to be done and that could be a topic of discussion during the next round of funding bids as part of budget discussions. NT asked if MI could report back on funding to the Panel at a future meeting, which was agreed by the Chairman.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked JG for the presentation and all participants for their contribution on the matter.</p>
(4)	End of Year CLA Reduction Submission and Current CLA Breakdown –
	<p>Mrs. R. Evans (Head of Children and Young People Services) (RE) discussed the Local Authority Reduction Expectation Plans – Progress Statement (1st January 2021 – 31st March 2021), additionally noting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Quarter 4 submission for 2021 which contained a full year's information had now been submitted to Welsh Government.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been continuing and higher demand for placements and a significant number of places during the year had been as a result of emergencies. • There had been 83 entrants to care in total over the last year, with 60 of those being emergency placements. • There were 23 admissions into care in Q4, with 17 of those emergency placements, 10 taking place in March. • The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on our ability to discharge Care Orders and there has been some consequent delay. <p>The Chairman asked about the next stage for the intentions set after the end of year submission. RE said it was part of a 3-year programme, this being year 2, so the intentions had already been set for year 3. However, the intentions had been sent prior to the pandemic and will therefore be impacted.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked RE for the information.</p> <p><u>Breakdown</u></p> <p>RE took the Committee through the latest available information, which had not been circulated but was available on-screen at the meeting, concerning a breakdown of Children Looked After in the Vale of Glamorgan as of the 19th March, 2021, for information.</p> <p>RE advised that the number of CLA as of Friday the 14th May, 2021 was 282, which was a small reduction to the figure presented to Panel in March.</p> <p>22 young people would be turning 18 this year, higher than last year's figure, with 5 already having turned 18 since the beginning of the year.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked RE for the information provided.</p>
(5)	Work Programme Discussion –
	<p>The Chairman said that many of the subjects that Panel members had been keen to discuss had been covered as part of the Work Programme to date. It was hoped to do more around fostering in the Autumn. Should Panel members wish to add anything further for future discussion, they can advise the Chairman or Democratic Services officer at any time.</p>
(6)	Any Other Business –
	<p>There were no items of other business for consideration.</p>
(7)	Date of Next Meeting –
	<p>The date of the next meeting would be Monday the 05th July, 2021 at 4.30 p.m.</p>